

Claims

1. A composition for regenerating cartilage, comprising apigenin in an effective amount resulting in a concentration of 1  $\mu\text{M}$  to 80  $\mu\text{M}$  in an articular cartilage 5 and a synovial fluid and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. The composition for regenerating cartilage according to claim 1, wherein the composition has effects of reducing joint synovial fluid volume and levels of 10 proteoglycan, total proteins and prostaglandin in a synovial fluid, and improving the condition of synovial cells.

3. A therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis for regenerating cartilage, comprising the composition for 15 regenerating cartilage according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

4. The therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis according to claim 3, wherein the therapeutic agent is in a form of orally administrable preparations of solutions, capsules, 20 granules, tablets or pills; topically applicable preparations of ointments or transdermally administrable preparations; or injectable preparations.

5. The therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis according to claim 4, wherein therapeutic agent is in a form of the orally administrable preparations that contain apigenin in a daily effective amount of 10 mg to 1000 mg.

5           6. The therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis according to claim 4, wherein therapeutic agent is in a form of the ointments that contain apigenin in a daily effective amount of 1 mg to 100 mg.

10          7. The therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis according to claim 4, wherein therapeutic agent is in a form of the injectable preparations that contain apigenin in a daily effective amount of 0.1 mg to 10 mg.

15          8. A method of treating osteoarthritis by regenerating articular cartilage, comprising administering a therapeutic agent for osteoarthritis, comprising the composition for regenerating cartilage according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, to an osteoarthritis patient.